

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CONECUH RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

BULAH CHURCH, PIKE COUNTY, ALABAMA,

FROM THE 13TH TO THE 15TH OCTOBER,

1849.

W. A. C. B. B. B.


the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers; taking the oversight thereof not by constraint but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind. Jesus says; "If a man love me he will keep my words and my Father will love him."

As our limits forbid our speaking further to you, dear Brethren and Sisters, turn our attention more especially to the Deacons. Dear Brethren Deacons, remember your high calling! Much, very much, depends on you. The temporal and spiritual welfare of the churches, in a considerable degree, depends on you. Remember the solemn charge you have received. You are as ministers of men—you are to contend earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to the Saints. Take the admonition of the Apostle: "If any man come preaching any other Gospel than that which ye have received, receive him not into your house; neither bid him God speed, for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deed." In discharging of your duty, be sure that you are prompt to attend your church meetings, and if you should be destitute of a pastor take up the cross and follow in exhortation or singing and prayer according to the impress of the Spirit, as your business is to serve tables. Look well to that. O, how often do we see communion disappointed on account of the Deacons not being prepared. And now a word to the churches in our concluding remarks. Brethren and Sisters, Love is our theme—do ye love Jesus or not? Let us examine ourselves; we are commanded to try the spirits; therefore let us begin in our own breast and examine ourselves by the word of God. Jesus says: "If ye love me keep my commandments." He has commanded us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is. O, Brethren and Sisters, how often are our seats empty in the house of God—how often do we stay at home rather than meet around the communion table to commemorate the death and suffering of our loving Jesus; how often is it the case that if we fail of a preacher on Sabbath, we would rather stay at home or be found in an idle temple where God has said, I will be from idols. Jesus says why call ye me Lord, and do not the things that I say. Preachers do your duty, deacons do your duty, brethren and sisters do your duty; live up to the Scripture and live up to the commands of the Savior. When you have no preacher pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers. Deacons, be well to your preachers; if you see them in need tell it to the church. Brethren, do not trust your Deacons with contempt, by not enabling them to discharge that duty that they owe to God and their brethren.

We are aware that we have not done any degree of justice to the subject, yet we have exceeded our limits. And now, dear Brethren and Sisters, our desire is that God would be pleased to bless this little epistle so far as may accord with his will, to the comfort of his children, to the good of sinners, and to the glory of our God. Amen. Brethren, farewell! Live in peace, and may the God of love and peace be with you all. Amen.

DANIEL DOZIER, Minister.

WILLIAM J. POUNCEY, Clerk.



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1850. 150
 the money on hand and have the balance for

21. Resolved, That Friendship Society, be attached to the first district of the Association, and Antioch, Butler county, to the second.

22d. Resolved, That we give a vote of thanks to the members of Bulah Church, and friends in its vicinity, for their kindness to us during the present session.

23d. Read the minutes and adjourned to time and place stated. Prayer by the brother or Moderator.

DANIEL DOZIER, Moderator.

WILLIAM J. POUNCEY, Clerk.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Conecuh River Baptist Association of the Primitive Order, in session with the Bulah Church, Pike county, to her sister Associations with whom she corresponds, sends Christian love and affection:

Dear and much esteemed Brethren in the Lord:

Through the goodness of our Heavenly Father, we are again permitted to meet in our twenty-second Annual Session, and have received a full representation from the Churches in our union; and have conducted the business of the Association with peace and harmony; and several Churches express their gratitude to Almighty God, for his blessings bestowed on them in adding to their numbers, while others complain of coldness and barrenness of soul; yet all remain in peace with themselves and with sister Churches. And we have also received a full correspondence from sister Associations, by letter and messengers, for which we feel thankful to Almighty God for sending in our midst so many of our beloved brethren, whose coming has been a source of enjoyment to us, and whose labors in the Gospel have been with zeal and much ability, and we pray God that their labors may be a lasting blessing to all the dear children of God. Dear Brethren, we desire your correspondence to be continued with us, for which purpose we send you this, our epistle of love, by the hands of our brethren as stated in our minutes, whom we hope you will receive in our behalf.

Our next Association will convene with Consolation Church, Butler county, on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1850; at which time and place we hope to meet your delegation.

Dear Brethren, we desire an interest in your prayers, and hope you will visit us as often as you can. Now may the God of all grace be with you and us, and keep us all in the unity of the Spirit, and bonds of peace, is the prayer of your little sister, for Christ sake.

DANIEL DOZIER, Moderator.

WILLIAM J. POUNCEY, Clerk.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

BY JOSEPH THIGPEN.

THE CONECUH RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, of the Primitive Order, to the several Churches composing the same:

Dearly beloved Brethren:—According to a custom of long standing among Baptist of the Primitive order, and agreeable to previous arrangement, you will be looking for a Circular Address from us; and in trying to comply with that duty that seems to present itself to our minds, we shall call your attention to a subject as a foundation for what may follow, viz: Love.

Dear Brethren, though the subject that we have laid as a foundation for this epistle is only comprised of four letters, yet it contains more than any other subject that our minds could possibly be directed to.

Brethren, we are aware that the narrow confines of a circular are infinitely too small, were we in possession of the ability to set forth the glories contained in this subject, and it is probable that through weakness we may rather thought, it is not possible for us to go beyond our subject, for when we speak of Love we speak of God, for God is Love.

1st John, 4th chapter, 8th verse. We understand that we were not made here to only teach at some of the in-
 it God. It has been the grand object of the effects of that Love
 deification. In the first place, we take notice of God in Christ
 upon him, as a man, that was the master-piece of all God's
 View the love of God in placing of his dear Son, man, in that Paradise
 placed him in, at the time that of giving him a righteous law for the govern-
 rule of life; see the love and union that existed so long as he observed the
 find that Love is a law requisition, and therefore it is enjoined on the whole
 family; as a proof of that, we cite you to Deuteronomy, 6 chapter, 5th verse: "And
 thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all
 thy might." Matthew, 22d chapter, 37th verse: "Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love
 the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy mind." Luke, 10th chapter, 27th
 verse: "And he answering said thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and
 with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as
 thyself." Romans, 13th chapter, 10th verse: "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor,
 therefore Love is the fulfilling of the law."

We might call your attention to many more passages, but we think that we have
 quoted enough, and as we have said that love is a law requisition, as it is such the duty
 of the Adamic family to observe its regulations as it was our fore-parents' in the day
 that God gave them the law. Yet we do not wish to be understood that man by living
 up to all the requirements of that law would be entitled to any reward, but that he as
 the creature of God has done nothing more than what was his duty; and the Apostle
 has said, If there had been a law given that could have given life, verily righteousness
 would have been by the law; and as we are addressing the Adamic family, we say to
 you in the language of the Savior, "Ye must be born again." This was the language
 of the Savior to Nicodemus, that great ruler of the Jews, and notwithstanding his
 greatness, he could not see how these things could be, and we are of the opinion that
 there are many in this day that profess to be the followers of Jesus, that are in the same
 situation. May God open their eyes if agreeable to his will!

We must stop as regards this requisition of the law, and try to come to speak of it in
 a special point—or, in other words, try to speak of the love of God towards his Church,
 or those that God gave to his son Jesus Christ, in the Covenant of redemption. We are
 aware that people professing to know God, objects or denies the doctrine of the Cove-
 nant plan of redemption as existing between God, the Father Son and Holy Ghost before
 time, but in this we see the love of God predicated upon his fore-knowledge, and we
 think that John had a view of that when he said: "Behold what manner of Love the
 Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God." Then,
 Brethren, we contend that God being Love, and that he is without variableness or the
 shadow of a turn, and that he was God before time, and if you can tell when God began
 to be God, then we can tell when his love began to exist toward his children. And you
 that are disposed to deny such a thing as a Covenant or agreement, as we understand
 them to be the same, we cite your attention to the 89th Psalm of the Psalmist David,
 and 3d verse: "I have made a Covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David, my
 servant." We are in hopes that no person will deny that the chosen one here alluded
 to was Jesus; as all will admit that God chose his son to be the Savior of sinners.
 Also read the Psalm down from the 3rd to the 30th verse, and we think that you will,
 by the help of God, see that in that Covenant that there is brought to view was between
 God, the Father and his son Jesus Christ, and that David was enabled through the
 revelation of God to view it by faith, and glory therein. Also Isaiah 42d chapter 1st, to
 6th verse: "Behold my servant whom I uphold, mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth,
 I have put my spirit upon him, he shall bring forth judgment unto the Gentiles." 5th
 verse: I, the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thy hand and will
 keep thee and give thee for a Covenant of the people for a light of the Gentiles. We
 will call your attention to one more passage, as we hope it will be enough to satisfy any
 unprejudiced mind of the truth of the doctrine of an everlasting Covenant. Malachi
 3d chapter, 1st verse: "Behold I will send my messenger and ye shall, prepare the way
 before me, and the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, and he will be
 the messenger of the Covenant whom ye delight in. Behold he shall come, saith the Lord
 of Hosts."

We shall notice the love of God in that of placing or choosing the day of redemption

MINUTES.

THE COMBINED BROTHERLY ASSOCIATION, of the Primitive Methodist order, commenced her twenty-second Annual Session with the *Bulah Church*, Pike county, on Saturday before the Second Sunday in October, A. D. 1849.

According to previous appointment, the introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder J. H. KNIGHTON, from 1st Corinthians, 6th chapter and 20th verse: "Ye are bought with a price, therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

After thirty minutes recess, the delegates from the several Churches in our union, repaired to the Meeting House; and preaching was continued at the stand by Elders JAMES NORMAN, and GILES BRYAN.

1st. The Association was organized with prayer by the Brother Moderator.

2d. Received and read letters from twenty-five Churches, and enrolled the delegates names, and minutd the state of the Churches.

3d. Proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the re-election of Elders DANIEL DOZIER, Moderator, and WILLIAM J. POUNCEY, Clerk.

1st. The Moderator announced the Association organized and ready for business, and invited visiting brethren of sister Associations of our faith and order, to seats with us, and read the rules of decorum.

2d. Offered opportunity for newly constituted Churches, and Churches with letters from sister Associations, to attach themselves to our body; when Friendship Church, Pike county, and Antioch Church, Butler county, each, presented a petition, by letter, and delegates, and on examination, were found orthodox and orderly, and was received by the Moderator, giving the right hand of fellowship to their delegates.

3d. Appointed the following committees:

On Preaching.—Simon Russell, J. E. Stinson, J. A. Smith, B. Jones, P. Davis, J. Bryan.

On Business to come before the Association.—Elders Robert Warren, Robert Toler, Wm. J. Pouncey.

4th. The Committee on Preaching, report Elders E. NELSON, JOHN BLACKSTONE, D. MOORE, and Wm. J. POUNCEY, to preach on Sunday in the order of their names.

On motion, adjourned till Monday morning, 9½ o'clock. Prayer by Elder E. Nelson.

SUNDAY MORNING, 10 o'clock.

Our Brethren came forward in the order of their names, i. e. E. NELSON, J. BLACKSTONE, in the forenoon, and D. MOORE, and Wm. J. POUNCEY, in the afternoon; and with ability and much Christian zeal, preached the Word to a very large and attentive congregation, the fruits of which we hope will be gathered not many days to come.

MONDAY MORNING, 9½ o'clock.

1st. The Association was organized with prayer by Elder JOHN BLACKSTONE. The Moderator renewed our invitation to brethren from sister Associations.

2d. Read the rules of Decorum.

3d. The Committee on Preaching, report Elders MOSELY and FERGUSON, to preach in the forenoon, and J. TOMLIN and E. NELSON in the afternoon.

4th. Called for the report of the Committee on Business; which was presented, read, received, and committee discharged.

5th. The delegate from Bethesda Church in Barbour county, arrived, presented his letter, which was received, and the delegate invited to a seat.

6th. Called for the roll, and marked absentees.

7th. Called for correspondence from sister Associations, which were received as follows:

From *Thornetzer Association*, a letter and minutes by her delegates, Elders J. McClen, J. Norman, J. P. King, and by brethren J. King and J. McGlen.

From *Chesapeake Association*, a letter and minutes by her delegates, Elders J. TOMLIN, and brethren, J. PARRISH, L. M. PATERSON, T. PATERSON, and Wm. J. POUNCEY.

Copied by Mrs. Milton C. Carter
17th 1. Troy Ala. 36081

CHIEF, 1907-1910, ordained Ministers in Sweden—Licentiate in 1910.
Absent; not marked (*)